

Message Four

**The Living of the Sons of God
according to the Spirit's Intercession
and in All Things Working Together for Good**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:26-29

- I. The interceding Spirit helps us, sympathizes with us, sustains us, comforts us, and supports us by interceding for us—Rom. 8:26-27:**
- A. The Spirit who indwells us helps us in our weakness; in particular, the weakness in Romans 8:26 is weakness in prayer:
 - 1. Because we are weak in God's interest and in the divine things and do not know what kind of prayer God desires, the indwelling Spirit works in us to help us in our weakness in praying.
 - 2. The Spirit helps us in every kind of situation, for He knows our needs, problems, and shortcomings, and He sympathizes with us, supports us, and sustains us.
 - B. The Spirit intercedes for us with groanings in our manner; apparently, this is our groaning, but in our groaning is the groaning of the Spirit—v. 26.
 - C. As the Spirit works in us by helping us in our weakness and by interceding for us, He infuses His according-to-God-mind into us in our prayer—v. 27.
- II. The Spirit intercedes for us and all things are working together for us so that we may be conformed to the image of the firstborn Son—Rom. 8:26-29:**
- A. The Spirit's intercession is not mainly according to the will of God but according to God Himself—vv. 26-27:
 - 1. The Spirit intercedes for us that we may be fully conformed to the image of Christ—vv. 27, 29.
 - 2. Christ is the pattern, and the Spirit prays that everything that happens to us will mold us into this pattern, the image of God's firstborn Son—v. 29.
 - B. As a result of the Spirit's intercession, "all things" work together for good, that is, for the fulfillment of God's purpose—vv. 26, 28:
 - 1. The working together of all things outside of us always follows the groaning of the Spirit within us—vv. 27-28.
 - 2. God the Father is sovereign, arranges everything, and knows what is best for us; He answers the Spirit's intercession by causing all things to work together for good—that we would be conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God for the corporate expression of the Triune God—vv. 28-29.
 - 3. We need to realize that the reason we pass through sufferings is that God has a purpose and that our sufferings are the "all things" that are working together for the accomplishment of this purpose—v. 18.
 - 4. According to the context, the good mentioned in verse 28 refers to our being conformed to the image of Christ as the firstborn Son of God—v. 29.

5. We are not in our own hands but in the Lord's hands, and He has placed us in the process by which His purpose of conformation is being fulfilled; those who realize that they are in the process of God's purpose will have genuine peace—John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:28-29; 15:33; 16:20.
- C. God has called us with the purpose of conforming us to the image of His Son, and the way to cooperate with God in His purpose is to love Him—8:28-29:
 1. To love God is to cooperate with Him, and to cooperate with Him is to give Him an opportunity to work out His purpose in us and with us—Mark 12:30.
 2. If we love the Lord, everything will work together for our profit, that is, for our conformation—Rom. 8:29.
 3. Whether all things are a profit or loss to us depends on our love for the Lord; the secret is to love Him—v. 28; 1 Cor. 2:9.